The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and members of labor informed on all benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1586 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 21, NO. 35

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

John L. Lewis is now in a pickle with his best friends of recent years—the Communists. He was their hero while Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany were pals. But since Hitler turned on Russia and Joan had the knives out for each other, John spent quite a bit of money digging up evidence of Communist plots in the United Mine Workers union and submitted a brief to a Senate Investigating Committee in which he charged that the Reds were plotting to destroy the American Federation of Labor through the "One Big Union" idea and a policy of unrestricted industrial unionism. The Commies came right back with a sensational story of how John got to be the big boss of the miners which has never been successfully denied.

Will They Begin to Sing?

Well, the Commies and John have learned a lot more about each other during their close association since 1935 and if they begin to "sing" now, the public should hear some very interesting stuff. For instance, the Commies might reveal a few things about John's connection with the Mexican oil deals. We'd like to know more about that ourselves, as would a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., which has been doing some quiet investigating.

Then, there was that recent matter of the Federal Shipbuilding plant at Kearny, N. J. The Washington Merry-Go-Round Column recently discussed this case and broadly hinted that John had tried to come to the aid of his friends in United States Steel, which owns the shipbuilding plant at the expense of the CIO Shipbuilding Workers Union. There have been lots of sinister rumors about this incident and it would be healthy if John's Communist ex-friends spoke up with what they know.

And, of course, we may look forward to a lively fracas at the coming CIO convention if John and his former buddies like Harry Bridges, Joe Curran and Matt Quill have definitely broken. John was relying on the Commy clique in the CIO to help put him back in office as CIO president. It seems assured that Phil Murray is now the CIO president and the Commies are not going to run out on John it will be quite a scramble with no holds barred.

It seems to us that this whole diary picture provides a significant contrast to the steady, stable, constructive policies and principles of the American Federation of Labor. Everybody will realize before long that a labor organization which will have no truck with John or the Commies is, indeed, fortunate.

Compare the Records

The upset condition of the CIO was never so frankly exposed as on Labor Day. Who were the CIO's spokesmen on this great occasion? Why, Jim Carey, the executive office-boy, and Allan S. Haywood, a Lewis lackey, who holds the office of organization director. Where was John on Labor Day? Retired in the gloomy silences of Alpine. There was Murray in Detroit. He, they tell us, is still a very sick man. Well, then, where were the other CIO big shots? Echo answers there are none—at least none that John would trust.

And what did Jim Carey say? He said the CIO was for the defense program. On what authority did he say-that? God alone knows because the CIO never has gone officially on record on that subject. What else did he say? He said that the CIO stood united against Fascism here and abroad.

If there ever was a dead give-away that statement was it. Not a whisper, you see, of the CIO policy on Communism. There was a reason for that whisper. The bald omission of Communism from Carey's statement spoke more eloquently than words.

We suggest to all workers in America that they might profit immensely by comparing the Labor Day addresses and statements of President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany with the speeches and statements of the CIO spokesmen. Nothing could be more educational and revealing for American workers.

News Briefs

$3,000,000 PAY BOOST WON BY GLASS WORKERS

Atlantic City, N. J.—Increases in wages totaling almost $2,000,000 for 27,000 workers in the glass industry were secured in conferences lasting five weeks between union leaders and manufacturers here, Harry H. Cook, of Toledo, Ohio, international president of the American Flint Glass Workers Union of North America, AFL affiliate, announced.

Fifty manufacturers and glass company officials attended the sessions, which were presided over by Calvin Coe, president of the National Association of Manufacturers of Pressed and Blown Glassware. Mr. Coe said that industry has not had a general strike since the turn of the century.

GREEN PAYS TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Grand Rapids, Mich.—In his Labor Day address here President William Green of the American Federation of Labor paid high tribute to President Roosevelt for his efforts in behalf of the workers. Mr. Green said:

"I would be remiss in my duty as president of the American Federation of Labor if I were to neglect to mention the cooperation and help which the labor movement has received from our pioneer statesman, President Roosevelt and his Administration. The President warned us at the inception of the defense program that sacrifices would be required not only of labor, along with capital and industry, but at the same time he promised that the economic, social and legislative gains made by organized labor and the democratic rights of the workers would not be scuttled in the process.

"President Roosevelt has kept his word. The workers of America have faith in him and he has kept his pledge to them. There is a peculiar tribute I could pay him than to declare here and now that the millions of American workers gladly follow his leadership and have full confidence in his policies and his purpose."

AFL WINS ELECTION AT SEVEN SHIPYARDS

Cleveland, O.—Employes at the seven Great Lakes yards of the American Shipbuilding Co. rolled up a big majority for affiliation with the Federation of Labor as their collective bargaining agent in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board. There were 1,264 votes cast for the AFL unit, 599 for the CIO unit. The AFL has 11 affiliates in the various yards, two of which are affiliated with the Metal Trades Council, Cleveland, Lorain, Toledo, South Chicago and Superior, Wis.

TEACHERS FEDERATION BANS TOTALITARIANS

Detroit, Mich.—The administration program of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL affiliate, was endorsed by the 25th convention here which by its policy and leadership personnel, which was a clear cut victory for the forces led by President George S. Counts, who was re-elected by 854 votes to 8 blanks. The convention reaffirmed the devotion of teachers to democratic freedom, demanded protection of teachers' living standards through a war program that will protect education from attacks by condemned totalitarian doctrines.

The proscription of totalitarianism was achieved by a drastic change in the membership eligibility clause, which reads:

"No discrimination shall ever be shown toward individual members because of race, religious faith or political activities or belief, except that no applicant whose political actions are subject to totalitarian forces, such as communist, nazi or fascist, shall be admitted to membership."

Fifty-five locals were represented at the convention.

Green Says Workers Will Not Let America Down; Meany Appeals for Re-united Labor Movement; Roosevelt Rallies Nation to Defeat Hitlerism

AFL Secretary-Treasurer Also Urges Planning Now For Post-War Needs

Uniondale, N. Y.—Proclaiming the confidence of the American Federation of Labor to do its full part, George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L., appeals to a Labor Day address for the restoration of unity in the labor movement in this country. Mr. Meany's speech was broadcast nationally by the Columbia Broadcasting System, was the principal speaker at the unveiling of a statue of the late Samuel Gompers.

"The need for labor unity is greater today than ever before," Mr. Meany said. "The need for unity in a period of postwar economic stress is so obvious that no comment upon it is necessary. There never has been a sound trade union movement on a divided labor movement. There is no such reason today.

"The American Federation of Labor is ready and waiting today, as it has been since the start of this controversy, to continue its efforts to compose the differences that have caused this division."

Mr. Meany warned against the assumption that the boom now underway in defense industry will be permanent. He said that the time will come when the huge defense plants will be shut down, and he urged planning now to avert another depression, which "he said otherwise would be even worse than the last one.

"The American Federation of Labor believes that this catastrophe can be avoided—but only if somebody has done about it now. If we wait until a new and more serious economic collapse has actually taken place, it will be too late. The American Federation of Labor believes that the time to prepare is the present. And to meet this situation the American Federation of Labor has a simple proposal. We urge that a planning agency be established immediately upon which labor, agriculture, industry and government would be represented by the very best brains to be found in each of these fields. The sole and exclusive task of this planning agency would be to devise a practical program to keep the wheels of industry turning and American workers employed in full normal peace.

"Today we are concentrating upon production for national defense, and it is sound common sense that we should be focusing all our energies on this one task of paramount importance. But while we are concentrating on national defense, we must not forget that, when peace returns to the earth and there are no more jobs in defense industries, the American people will need food, clothing and shelter. Provision must be made now for the return of American workers will have jobs in peace, so that they may provide their families with food, with clothing, with shelter and with the other items that make life not merely endurable but also enjoyable and satisfying.

"Military experts down through the ages have pointed out the value of an intangible factor in war known as morale. We know what morale is. Its importance cannot easily be exaggerated. One of the big reasons in the defeat of Germany in 1918 was the collapse of German morale. Here in America, engaged as we are in an all-out national defense program, it is vital that our morale should be at a high pitch.

"For that reason, among others, it would be wise for labor, as labor feels, if such a postwar planning agency as I have described were established at the earliest possible moment. If the millions of workers now employed in defense industries are worried about what will happen to them and their families after the emergency is over, it is inevitable that their morale will be impaired.

"But if, on the other hand, they know that a program is being drawn up which will make it possible for them to swing right into peacetime jobs, then it will not be necessary for anyone to be concerned about the morale of the American worker."

Chief Executive Emphasizes American Labor Bears Great Responsibility In Defense Program

Hyde Park, N. Y.—"We shall do everything in our power to crush Hitlerism and his Nazi forces," President Roosevelt pledged in his Labor Day address, broadcast on the second anniversary of the start of war in Europe.

He called on the American people to exert more energy and do their "full part" toward conquering "the forces of insane violence" let loose by Hitler upon the world, warning that Hitlerism endangers the church and education as well as the rights of both labor and business and all other human rights.

The President went further than ever before to make clear that the United States is not neutral in Adolf Hitler's downfall, even though "the task of defeating Hitler may be long and arduous." He left little doubt that this country was virtually at war, referring to Hitler as the "enemy" and pledging "single-mindedness and sacrifice" by the United States to speed up production.

The Chief Executive minced no words in making an attack on "the warped, twisted, evil, unspeakable forces" who say that Hitler cannot be defeated. He declared that these persons were seeking to make him a "modern Benedict Arnold" to the cause of human freedom and demanding that he seek peace with Hitler and "pray for crumbs from his victorious table." The fact was, the President asserted, that Hitler must be defeated to defend "our fundamental rights" threatened by the Nazi dictator's "violent attempt to rule the world."

Emphasizing the importance of national unity and cooperation, the President declared that we must step up our armament production "and more greatly safeguard it on its journey to the battlefields."

He stated that the rights of organized labor could not survive without the rights of "freeenterprise." He added that "no group of Americans has created more clearly what Nazi domination of the world means than has organized labor—what it means to their standard of living, their freedom, their lives."

Asserting that the rights of free laboring men and women were essential not only to those who enjoyed them but "to the whole of future Christian civilization," the Executive emphasized that American labor bore a tremendous responsibility "in the winning of this most brutal, most terrible of all wars."

Whereas trade unionism had been a healthy growth in the United States, Hitler "will not" and "cannot" permit it.

"For as he defies all rights of individuals, he must deny all rights to groups, of labor, of business, of learning, of the church," the President said, emphasizing that Hitler "has persecuted religion."

"American workers and American farmers, American businessmen and American churchmen—all of us together—have the great responsibility and the great privilege of laboring to build a democratic world on enduring foundations," he said in conclusion.

"May it be said on some future Labor Day by some future President that the United States that we did our work faithfully and well."

Bevin Challenges American Workers To Help Britain Against Hitler

New York, N. Y.—In a trans-Atlantic broadcast to American labor, Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor, appealed directly to the workers of America to help Great Britain in the fight against Nazi aggression.

"Working people can never rise to their full stature under a system dependent upon autocracy or dictatorship," he said. "They must work it through a labor movement organized and united under a free democratic system. That is where our national characteristics, but a great cause unites us. The trade unions cut right across class lines and build solidarity. They unite all peoples, irrespective of race, color or religion.

"Therefore, I put the challenge to my fellow-workers the world over:

"Can you build a better world? Is the great working classes to fight this battle alone?

"You know in your hearts that your future also depends upon a victory over nazism. It is acknowledged that that victory depends upon overwhelming supplies of all forms of war material.

"Surely the working people will not allow any disunity in their own midst to hinder final victory over this monster who would destroy them. There must be united effort, united sacrifice and unremitting production if we are to insure victory and then join in the great task of world reconstruction.

"I, then, greetings my friends, and an assurance that I have an enduring faith in your willingness to share that task and participate in the glory of what I believe will be the final triumph of democracy in the world."

Union Label Symbol of Democracy, Ornburn Says In Labor Day Talk

Washington, D. C.—The Union Label is the symbol of industrial democracy and the antithesis of totalitarianism, Edward F. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor told a large radio audience on Labor Day.

"During the coming year let each worker put more determination, more energy, and more spirit toward the goal of maintaining the democratic movement a more militant and powerful American institution. If we do, then we shall have a great movement of progress of the American Federation of Labor," Mr. Ornburn said.

"It is the labor movement that requires weapons of defense to protect the sacred principles of democracy in government, so do labor unions find it necessary to have available weapons to secure their rights and maintain the benefits gained by labor unions over a long period of years. Unionarned money when directed in union channels is the best weapon for the defense of American labor standards. Members of labor unions, their families and friends form this Union Label army, which, if called upon, could in an air raid, Union Labels, Shop Cards and Service Buttons are the weapons to drive out unfair bosses and open-shoppers from the American scene.

"Through the use of the Union Label workers do not find it necessary to strike or to even throw out a picket line in front of an unfair industry. The Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button are weapons that can be used in a silent and peaceful manner. They are continuous boycotts against sweatshoppers, chiselers and unfair employers. The Union Label is the best guarantee that products are made in America. It is the only assurance that goods are made under humane and sanitary conditions. The Union Label is the highest symbol of quality.

"Union Labels, Shop Cards and Service Buttons stand for industrial democracy and economic security. They are emblems on the banner of the allied forces which are conquering industrial dictators in America. These trade-marks of American Federation of Labor unions are the very antithesis of the emblems of totalitarianism. This great army of Union Label-conscious consumers is pitted against the axis forces composed of sweatshop employers and low-wage chiselers. These official labels which are displayed on Union Label cards and insignia under union auspices are symbols of a mobilized consumer army which, with Union-earned money, patronizes only those firms displaying the Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button."

BETHLEHEM DRIVERS CHOOSE AFL TEAMSTERS

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Truck drivers employed in two Brooklyn and one Staten Island yard of the shipbuilding division of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation by a unanimous vote selected the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs, AFL affiliate, as their collective bargaining agent, the National Labor Relations Board announced.

AFL President Declares Labor Will Defend Its Freedoms At Any Cost

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Addressing a mass meeting of 20,000 here and a nation-wide radio audience, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor declared in his Labor Day address that the free working men and women who have built America "will now defend it at any cost."

"I am proud of their intelligence, their courage, their patriotism and their record," Mr. Green said of the five million A. F. of L. members. "On this Labor Day I call upon the entire nation to join me in saluting the loyal army of workers who are succeeding in making America the arsenal of democracy."

Earlier in the day, participating in a coast-to-coast broadcast with President Roosevelt, Ernest Bevin and other labor leaders, Mr. Green said:

"Speaking for the five million members of the American Federation of Labor, I assure the American people that there is no more loyal and thoroughly aroused body of men and women in the nation today. Not of the American Federation of Labor appreciate the benefits of freedom. We love our country. We are for the national defense program 100 per cent. We do not hesitate and we never have hesitated to express our hate of totalitarianism in all its forms.

"Manifesting this spirit, American workers in the past year have accomplished production miracles. They have contributed their skill, their sweat and their creative genius to the tasks set for them. With willing hands and high hearts they have broken all production records. More than 90 per cent of the American Federation of Labor members have refrained from striking on defense jobs for any cause.

"These men in overalls, these patient, sturdy, unconquerable workers in munitions factories, in shipyards, in aircraft plants, and on construction jobs are the dauntless America's first line of defense. They do not wear uniforms, they do not bear arms but they are fighting their country's battle right on the job. They are free men and they are determined to remain free. I ask the American people to recognize and acknowledge publicly the splendid, patriotic accomplishments and their unbeatable spirit. I pledge to the American people that the united effort, united sacrifice and unremitting production of the workers here in victory and then join in the great task of world reconstruction.

"I, then, greetings my friends, and an assurance that I have gin enducing faith in your willingness to share that task and participate in the glory of what I believe will be the final triumph of democracy in the world."

SMITH ENDS 6-YEAR TERM AS LABOR BOARD MEMBER

Washington, D. C.—The six-year term of Edwin S. Smith as a member of the National Labor Relations Board ended Aug. 26.

Washington observers generally assumed that he would not be reappointed. President Roosevelt said at his press conference that no decision had been reached.

AFL Trounces CIO In Detroit Election; Union Upheld By Street Railwaymen

Detroit, Mich.—In a contest that attracted nation-wide attention, the American Federation of Labor administered a severe trouncing to the CIO in its supposed stronghold—Detroit.

Aided by five other A. F. of L. unions, the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America won a vital collective bargaining election and ended the threat of further CIO raids against other established organizations here.

The election followed settlement of a five day strike called by Division 26 of the Amalgamated Association and ended the threat of further CIO raids against other established organizations here.

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President W. D. Mahon, who worked out the formula for the strike which ended with Governor Edward Jeffries after a stalemate had been reached in the five day strike, issued a statement and a warning after the vote was announced.

Meanwhile, results of this election show that lies, slander, invective and abuse never won anything," he said. "The good judgment of the Amalgamated membership again has demonstrated itself.

"We will continue as always trying to better and improve the conditions of employment and wages for our men. We have demonstrated our ability to defend ourselves against the type of attack that was launched by President Roosevelt and we trust that this will serve as a notice to any employer or association which may contemplate similar moves."

Metal Trades Heed President's Plea; Demand Greater Ship Production

On the heels of President Roosevelt's Labor Day plea for increased production in defense industries, the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor issued a stirring appeal for redoubled efforts by shipbuilding workers and executives to produce speedily "ships, ships and more ships."

In its official bulletin for September, the Metal Trades Department declared:

"At this time we wish to call to the attention of all who have our country's interest at heart the need for skilled mechanics to offer their services to the shipbuilding industry."

It was explained that the department is conducting a drive to obtain a greater supply of skilled workers for jobs in shipyards.

The Bulletin added:

"It is to you men—whether executives, skilled mechanics or laborers—that our country is looking for the production of ships which we very sorely need. Our country is calling today for the delivery of ships, ships and more ships and it is up to all of us to heed that call."

The bulletin pointed out that the Metal Trades Department as far back as 1923 adopted resolutions in convention demanding that the United States Navy be built up to full treaty limits and that ever since embarked a campaign for expansion of the American Navy and merchant marine.

Commenting on the "almost miraculous" growth and expansion of the shipbuilding industry during the last few years, the bulletin declared that the United States now is the outstanding shipbuilding nation of the world.

The Metal Trades Department initiated and participated in the negotiation of regional stabilization agreements in the shipbuilding industry, establishing basic working standards and voluntarily renouncing strikes or lockouts in favor of mediation and arbitration. The department has an almost perfect record in enforcing this no-strike policy.

Patterson Praises AFL Trade Unions For Their Help In Defense Program

Washington, D. C.—Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, in an address before the 54th annual convention demanding that the United States Navy be built up to full treaty limits and that ever since embarked a campaign for expansion of the American Navy and merchant marine.

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of the War Department, entailing the expenditure of billions and of half dollars in one year, "could not have been finished if labor had not pitched in," Mr. Patterson said.

"The American Federation of Labor time and again has come to the rescue of the War Department," he relates. "When and where skilled local labor was not to be found, A. F. of L. pitched in, transporting thousands of men thousands of miles to locations where local labor was not available."

Mr. Patterson reports that a recent check made by the War Department revealed that out of 62,000,000 man-days worked on Army construction jobs, the time lost through work stoppages amounted to only 44,000 man-days. This means that, despite denunciations of labor in some quarters, A. F. of L. construction workers have been on the job 99.93 per cent of the time.